

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parent involvement is not only a requirement of NCLB (Section 1118), it is also a requirement of The Board of Public Education under ARM 10.55.701(3) (m).

NCLB Section 1118

Parent involvement is not just a requirement. A successful Title 1 program includes planning, a written plan, implementation, evaluation of that plan and revisions of the plan if necessary. The requirement to involve parents throughout the entire process is important. Parents have firsthand insight into the needs of their child that can be cultivated along with the knowledge of the educator to assure success for children in your school.

LEA POLICY – An LEA may receive Title I funds only if such agency implements programs, activities, and procedures that involve parents in meaningful consultation for planning and implementation.

Parent Involvement shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents.

The two statements above would seem to require that a district have some parent involvement before it has Parent Involvement.

Parent Involvement is not just “Parent /Teacher Conferences”

Parent Involvement is not just “Social Gatherings”

In some cases , in its beginning, it takes extraordinary effort on the part of the District and School to foster any relationship with parents.

WRITTEN POLICY

- **Shall develop a written policy jointly with, agreed on with, and distributed to parents of participating children**
- Incorporate the policy into the Title I plan and describe:
 - * Parent involvement in joint plan development
 - * LEA coordination, technical assistance and support to schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities
 - * LEA build capacity for strong parent involvement
(see handout, “Building Capacity For Strong Parent Involvement”)
 - * Coordination and integration of parent involvement strategies with other State and Federal programs
 - * Involvement of parents annually in evaluating the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy
 - HOW HAS THE POLICY IMPROVED ACADEMIC QUALITY
 - HOW CAN THE DISTRICT INCREASE PARENT INVOLVEMENT
 - * Parent involvement in school activities

RESERVATION FOR LARGE SCHOOLS

1 % ALLOCATION - The LEA shall set aside 1% of agency allocation for parent involvement if allocation is above \$500,000.

PARENT INPUT - Parents shall be involved in the decisions regarding expenditure for parent involvement activities.

The District can use Title 1 funds to promote the Parent Involvement program even if they are not large enough for the Set-aside

SCHOOL POLICY - Each school served shall develop a policy similar to the LEA policy to be made available to the local community and to be updated periodically.

- Parents be involved
- Notification in an understandable format
- Updated and notice to the local community

Special Rule - District and Schools may amend current policy to reflect these requirements.

Parent Comments - Any comment from parents not satisfied with this policy must be submitted with the Title I Plan to the State.

Discussion: How to get parents involved.

How do you get them to come?

You may have to go get them!

Missoula – Liaison

**You may need to cultivate an individual or couple to
go to the home a recruits parents**

PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY - Each school shall:

- Convene an annual meeting for parents
 - Provide flexible meeting schedules
 - May provide transportation, child care or home visits
 - Involve parents in all issues regarding
 - Provide parents with:
 - Organized, ongoing, timely information
 - Information about curriculum, assessment and proficiency levels
 - Regular parent meetings
 - Include parent comments
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School-Parent Compact - Each school shall jointly develop with parents a school-parents compact that outlines how parents, the entire staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help students achieve the State's high standards.

The Compact shall:

Describe schools responsibility

Describe parents responsibility

Address importance of communication between teachers and parents through;

At least an annual Parent-teacher conference in elementary schools that includes discussion about how the compact relates to individual achievement

Frequent reports to parents on their children's progress

Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer, and observe classroom activities.

Effective communication is the foundation for building a meaningful Parent Involvement program. Communication requires:

- *A two-way and mutually beneficial process*
- *Conscious thought and planning*
- *Speaking respectfully and listening actively*
- *Plain language writing*

FYI - Last year OPI was reviewed by the USED. One of the main issues was PI - Helena Example.

Communication strategies and examples

Organizations

- **U.S. Department of Education:**
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oii/index>
- **Black Alliance for Education Options – BAEO:**
<http://www.baео.org>
- **Parent Information Center – PIRC's:** **<http://www.pirc-info.net>**
- **Supplemental Educational Services Quality Center – SESQ:**
<http://www.tutorforkids.org>
- **National Urban League:** **<http://www.nul.org>**
- **Harvard Family Research Project:**
<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp>

DOE Publications

- **Tools for Student Success – Selected Publications for Parents & Teachers** U.S. Department of Education, 1-877-4-ED-PUBS
<http://www.edpubs.org/webstore/Content/search.asp>
- **Put Reading First – Helping Your Child Learn to Read – A Parent**

Guide (EdPubs) 1-877-433-7827

- **Creating Strong Supplemental Service Programs 1-877-433-7827**
- **Help For Student Success, 1-888-814-6252**
- **Parent Involvement & Title 1, Part A (non-regulatory guidance)**
<http://www.ed.gov>

Other Publications

- **A New Wave of Evidence – The Impact of School, Family and Community Connections on Student Achievement by Anne Henderson and Karen Mapp, 1-800-476-6861, <http://www.sedl.org>**
- **An Overview of the New Education Law (National PTA)**
<http://www.pta.org>
- **Improving Your Schools: A Parent and Community Guide to NCLB, The Education Trust, <http://www.edtrust.org/edtrust>**
- **No Child Left Behind: What's in it for Parents,**
by Anne Henderson, <http://www.plassociates.org>
- **Using NCLB to Improve Student Achievement: An Action Guide for Community and Parent Leaders (Public Education Network)**
<http://www.publiceducation.org>
- **What's Going on in My Child's School? – A Parents Guide to Good Schools, (SEDL), 1-800-476-6861, <http://www.sedl.org>**